it cannot bear to leave any of them lying about unclassified and undocketted.

Suffice it for our present purposes to state that first of all Science laid its hands on the motions of planets and showed that they were all regular. But comets and meteors it left alone for a long while ; and the kind of narrow religion which has based the evidence of God only OJI exceptional events which she called miraculous, could say and did say " Yes, the motions of the planets are part of the constitution of the Universe and do not need God; but look at the comet's tail measuring millions and millions of miles in length and ^ sweeping across the skies and look at the shower of falling stars. God does not leave the Universe alone, you see ; here is His hand scattering these irregular lights about/'

But Science presently stretched out her hand and swept -these also into her drawers,—did them up in bundles, labelled them and showed that they, too, were part of the regular order and not special interferences at all. And that has been the lively and sporting game of Science all along and she keeps steadily filching away all miraculous evidences one after another on which popular religion relied for

its existence,
and arranging them in her own territory as
regular, orderly
parts of the universe, till it looks as if the religion
which
relies on the special interference of God would ere
long have
nothing left at all, for Science will have parcelled
out and
appropriated the whole area of phenomena as
belonging to
her domain. This is why blind orthodox religion
cries out in
angry protest at every fresh advance of Science.
Every such
advance seems to this sort of religion to be the
substituting
of natural forces for the action of God in some
fresh sphere.
So that the progress of Science necessarily seems
to be a
progress towards atheism. As Science shows that
natural
law covers the history of the heavenly bodies, of
the earth,
of organic life, each of these seems to be taken
away from
God. And so a false theology has successively
fought against